



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-2591
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Categorical Exclusion, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2014-0016-CX

Case File, AA-93889

DECISION RECORD

Decision

It is my decision to authorize a right-of-way to the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to conduct geotechnical drilling to assist the village of Shihsmaref in a potential relocation site on BLM-managed lands as described in the attached categorical exclusion documentation, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2014-0016-CX.

Rationale for the Decision

The proposed action has been reviewed by Anchorage Field Office staff and appropriate project stipulations, as specified, will be incorporated into the project. Based on the NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined that the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further analysis is required.

The rationale for the decision is based on the limited environmental impacts associated with the proposed drilling activities. The drilling will be conducted with adequate snow and ice cover, take place within a limited time frame and duration, and involves no drilling muds or water. All drilling holes will be backfilled with gravel from the holes bored.

The proposed action is in conformance with Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan, September 2008. The proposed action will not significantly restrict Federal subsistence uses, decrease the abundance of Federal subsistence resources, alter the distribution of Federal subsistence resources, or limit Federal subsistence user access from currently existing conditions. No further analysis is necessary at this time.

Appeal Opportunities

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR § 4. To appeal you must file a notice of appeal at the BLM Anchorage Field Office, 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appeal must be in writing and delivered in person, via the United States Postal Service mail system, or other common carrier, to the Anchorage Field

Office as noted above. *The BLM does not accept appeals by facsimile, email, or other electronic means.* The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR § 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (a) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (b) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (c) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (d) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR § 4.413); Office of the Regional Solicitor, Alaska Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 4230 University Drive, Suite 300, Anchorage, Alaska 99508; at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

/S/ Alan Bittner

2/10/2015

Alan Bittner
Anchorage Field Manager

Date

Attachments

1. Categorical Exclusion, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2014-0016-CX
2. Stipulations